

=BIBLE DOCTRINES=

Lesson 6

Repentance and Faith

Scripture: Luke 19:1-10

Objects to have:

A sign reading REPENTANCE and a sign reading FAITH
Five coins of the same denomination
A small pad of scratch paper and a pen or pencil
Your Bible.

Introducing the lesson:

(Hold up the word REPENTANCE.) Here is a very important word for today, REPENTANCE. Say it with me, “REPENTANCE.” Repentance is being sorry for doing something, and it is deciding to change.

A boy takes something that does not belong to him. What’s that called? Yes, stealing. He goes to Sunday school. He hears his teacher teach that Jesus commands us not to steal. He hears that we are to confess that sin and to change. The boy is sorry for his sin—he decides to change and not ever again take something that does not belong to him. He also returns the little car that he took. That boy has repented; he has shown REPENTANCE. He also trusts Jesus to help him live right—that’s FAITH. (Hold up that sign.)

In our story for today is a man like that. He had REPENTANCE and FAITH. I’ll tell you about that man. We read about him in the Bible—in the New Testament.

Boys and girls, have you ever heard your Mommy or Daddy talk about paying taxes? They talk about the taxes on the house or how much tax they pay when they buy something. All right. You may put your hands down. Tax money is used to pay for public school buildings—not our Hammond Baptist Schools—to pay our President for being President, to pay policemen, to pay firemen, and so many other things. We have to pay taxes, and the government tells us how much to pay.

Some people work in the tax office. The Bible tells of a man who was a boss in the tax office. This man lived during the time that Jesus was on earth.

Telling the story:

The man named Zacchaeus was sound asleep. It was just about time to get up. “Zacchaeus, get up. Breakfast is ready,” Mrs. Zacchaeus called. Zacchaeus rubbed his eyes. I think he put on his robe and slippers and wandered sleepily out to the kitchen.

“Good morning, Wife.” He sat down and ate his breakfast. “Hum, that was a good breakfast. Now I must get ready and go to work.” Zacchaeus got ready to go to work.

As Zacchaeus went down the street toward the office where he worked, he probably saw some people who knew who he was. Some of the people might have said hello to him as they met him. He probably saw some pastors from churches. Maybe he saw some poor people. Some of the people may not have said hello. Maybe some of the people thought, “There goes Mr. Zacchaeus. Someday maybe he’ll get punished for what he does.”

Zacchaeus used to tell people that they had to pay more money in taxes than they really had to pay. Then he would keep the extra money for himself. That’s stealing! People thought that he was a wicked, sinful man. They didn’t like to be around him.

I think that Zacchaeus knew that some people did not like him, but he was used to living the way he was. He had gotten rich on this job. Money was very important to him.

So, Zacchaeus went about his day's work. (Have your small pad of paper and your pencil in hand.) He left his office to go to a place where some very expensive perfume was being sold to one of the store owners. He opened the package of perfume and said, "You owe \$100 in taxes on this perfume." Then he wrote out a ticket (write it out as you talk and tear off a sheet), gave it to the store owner and said, "Pay me now." The store owner thought that was too much tax, but there was nothing he could do about it but pay the tax.

He got lots of money from many different store owners. He said to himself (write as if figuring an amount), "Now the tax amount is only this much. I am going to keep this much for myself."

(Look up suddenly. Suit actions to all of the following.) "Oh, what do I hear? Sounds like a great crowd of people shouting and laughing and having a wonderful time. Guess I'll go see what is going on outside." Zacchaeus went outside and looked down the street. (Shade your eyes with your hand.) "It looks like a parade. It's coming this way. There are a lot of people walking down the road, and many people are standing by the side of the road watching. All the people seem to be waving to one person. All the people act as if they want one certain person to see them."

(Look down as if you're talking to a child.) "Say, there, little boy. What's going on? Has some famous person come to town?"

(Turn and look up as if you're the little boy.) "Yes, sir. Jesus has come into Jericho. It's Jesus Who is coming down the road of our city." The little boy ran on toward the crowds of people.

I think that Zacchaeus thought to himself, "Jesus has come to town. I've heard of Him. I've heard that He does things that no one else can do. I've heard that when He talks to people who need and ask for His help, that He is so kind and so loving! I've also heard that He scolds the ministers and teachers who don't preach and teach the Bible right. I wonder what Jesus looks like! I wonder how He makes sick people well. I'd like to see Him make a crippled person walk again."

Zacchaeus started to hurry toward the great crowd of people. Pretty soon there were people all around him. All of the people were hurrying toward the place where Jesus was walking. Jesus was still a few blocks away. Zacchaeus might have thought, "If I just stand here on this corner, I'll see Jesus as He walks by." This seemed like a good idea. Just like going and standing by the side of the street and waiting for the parade to come by.

This was a good idea, except for one thing. Zacchaeus couldn't see the road. He was too short! Every other man and lady stood taller than Zacchaeus did. He pushed this way and that. No matter which way Zacchaeus went, there were people in front of him who were taller than he was, and he couldn't see over their heads.

Oh, how was he going to get to see Jesus? Jesus would be coming any minute now. Jesus could walk right by Zacchaeus, and Zacchaeus would never get to see Him. Maybe Zacchaeus thought, "If I just had a ladder or something to stand on, then I could see Jesus when He comes by." Zacchaeus looked up as he was thinking. Down the street he saw a tree, a big tall tree! "If I run fast to that tree, I could climb it. That would make me taller than anybody else! I have to hurry."

So the little, short man started to push his way back through the crowds, until he got behind everybody. Then he ran up the road to where the tree was. "Ah, now I have to climb it. I haven't done this since I was a boy. I'm not sure I remember how, but I have to climb it. Put a foot here in the fork. There. Now grab a hold of that lower branch—hope it holds me. Yes, now to get a foot up there. There. Now the other foot." (Stop and look down the road.) "No, I'm not high enough yet. Some people are still in my way. Got to stretch this leg 'way up there to that branch. There. Now the other leg. Ah, now I can see. There—there, I see Jesus!" (Stop talking as if you're looking and watching. You might just move around a little as if you're excited at the prospect of His

coming closer to where you are so that you can get a better look at Him. Move your head and eyes as if you see Jesus coming closer, until He's standing right under your tree. Hang on and look down. Then tell the children the rest of the story.)

Jesus got closer and closer to Zacchaeus. He could get a real good look at Jesus! Jesus did look as if He loved everybody. Just then, when Jesus got under the tree where Zacchaeus was, He stopped! Jesus stopped right under the tree and looked up!

Jesus called up to Zacchaeus, "Zacchaeus, make haste. Hurry up. Come down out of that tree. I'm going to go to your house and stay for a while. I'm going to go to your house today."

Zacchaeus was so surprised! Zacchaeus was so happy! He hurried down out of that tree. I wonder if he jumped part of the way, don't you? Jesus knew Zacchaeus' name, and Zacchaeus had never met Jesus before. Jesus knows the hearts of everybody, and He knows everybody's name!

I think that Zacchaeus said, "This is the way to my house. I'll be so happy to have You in my house today!" And so Jesus went with Zacchaeus to his house. While they went, some people were not very kind. They said, "Did you see that? Jesus goes to the houses of bad people. Zacchaeus is a sinner, and Jesus is going to his house." It's wonderful that Jesus will come to the house of sinners because that is what everybody is, until he meets Jesus. Everybody's a sinner. Jesus loves everybody.

While Zacchaeus was with Jesus on the way to his house, Zacchaeus realized how bad his life had been. He understood that he was a sinner and that Jesus could save him. At home, he stood and said to Jesus, "Half of all that I own I will give to poor people. Whatever I have taken from people, I will give it back, and four times that amount. If I have taken ten cents (or whatever coins you have) from anybody (hold up one dime), I'll give it back, and four more dimes besides." (Count out four more dimes.) "I'll repay anybody from whom I have stolen."

Jesus was able to change Zacchaeus. Zacchaeus never again wanted to steal people's money. Jesus saved Zacchaeus from having to go to Hell when he died, and He also changed Zacchaeus. Zacchaeus had REPENTANCE, and he had FAITH. He was sorry for his sin, and he trusted Jesus.

LEARN OUR BIBLE VERSES: Luke 19:8-10, *"...if I have taken anything from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold. And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house, forsomuch as he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."*